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Black Coal Production Unsatisfactory

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BLACK COAL PRODUCTION UNSATISFACTORY -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo,

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Mining, especially black coal production, is one of the basic branches of the Bulgarian national economy. A speed-up of the tempo of socialist construction depends to a large extent on the speedy increase of black coal production.

The Bulgarian black coal industry is subject to special attention on the part of the Party and the government and, personally, of the beloved people's leader, Comrade Vulkko Chervenkov, who encourages the Bulgarian miners in their efforts to achieve new successes in increasing labor productivity, improving the organization of production and extending mechanization. The decree of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Council of Ministers of November 1950 for improving economic and Party political work at the "Georgi Dimitrov" Mine is a brilliant example of the constant concern of Party and government for the further development of the entire coal industry in the country.

In the struggle to fulfill the first Dimitrov Five-Year Plan, the Bulgarian miners are attaining remarkable successes in increasing black coal production. With great enthusiasm they are devoting all their energies to ful-

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filling the production tasks of the Five-Year State Economic Plan before the prescribed date. For instance, 11.2 percent more black coal was produced in 1950 than in 1949. Compared with 1949, the average productivity of the blue-collar worker in the black coal industry was increased by 11 percent in 1950 and, during the first quarter of the current year, by 18.1 percent.

These achievements have been made possible thanks to the ever-increasing application of progressive Soviet work methods, namely, the cyclical method, a broad drift working, the multiple-tamping system and the speed method.

According to the graph of the cycle of operations, broad drift working is a decisive factor in increasing black coal production. In 1949, 73 percent of the entire black coal production was obtained from the broad drifts of underground pits; for the first quarter of 1951 the production from broad drifts is already 80 percent.

Notwithstanding the successes that have been attained, there are serious weaknesses in the application of the new work methods. In a number of pits of the "Georgi Dimitrov" mine the cycles last much too long; that is to say, as many as 8 shifts are required for completion of a cycle.

In order to eliminate the weaknesses that have occurred up to now and to bring about a new increase in black coal pro-

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duction, it is necessary that Bulgarian miners, learning from Soviet experience, master and apply the superior form of production, namely, the 24-hour cycle. What is the essence of this new progressive mode of work?

The essence of the organization of the 24-hour cycle in working broad drifts with 2 shifts for production and 1 for preparation lies in establishing a strict technological order for every drift and a sequence in the performance of all mining processes. This assures that 2 shifts will cut, load and transport the coal along the entire length of the drift at the respective depth of the undercutting. An altogether different shift is assigned the task of repairing machinery and equipment and of preparing for operations. In order to achieve such organization of the work in a mine, all drifts are united in a common blue-print of the pit showing surface works and underground transportation facilities. This makes it necessary for the transportation facilities in the pit to function properly assuring enough coal production to keep 2 shifts busy.

The 24-hour cycle method has already been applied in some of the country's coal pits with encouraging results. After the introduction of the new working methods in the "Vulkan" (Volcano) coal pit, during the first 5 months of 1951, an output of over 1,700 kilograms was attained, as compared with the previous 1,283 kilograms. After the

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introduction of the new working methods in the third field of the "Georgi Dimitrov" shaft in May of this year, the output of the underground workers increased from 1,056 kilograms to 1,391 kilograms. The average wage of a coal cutter was also increased from 112 to 250 leva per day.

What are the advantages of the new work organization? Most important is the assurance of constant 24-hour production. Each miner knows his place at the drift in advance, that is to say, he knows where to work and what to do while his shift is at work. Essentially, the work consists of operating the machines, moving them from one place to another, and performing some supplementary operations. The good condition of the machinery and the proper preparation of the face for removal of the coal to the shaft guarantee high labor productivity.

Because this method increases the working time of all workers engaged in production, it is of exceptional importance. It is especially applicable to the workers engaged in transporting the coal. It facilitates the maintenance of a regular supply of mine cars to the stope as well as of timbers for supporting the roof of the drifts. These jobs are performed in compliance with a special timetable.

In the 24-hour cycle the third (preparatory) shift

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does not perform any works on the cutting face. It devotes all its time to the mechanical equipment, thus permitting the efficient repair of machines and equipment and lessening possible damage to the machines.

The security of the miners working on the broad drifts is increased because the rapid advance assists in the work of inserting supporting timbers to strengthen the roof.

The timetable of the 24-hour cycle increases the responsibility not only of the section chiefs but also of the shift and brigade chiefs. The shift chief is the immediate assistant of the section chief and the responsible officer at the broad drift while his shift is working. He has the responsibility for the execution of the 24-hour cycle timetable. For that reason the organizational role of shift chiefs is greatly increased. They are required to enforce the cyclical timetable during their shifts, to constantly supervise the course of all operations at the various faces along the drift, and to prohibit all violations of the fixed order of work.

In spite of the positive results received from the initial stages of the cyclical work methods, it is necessary to point out the weaknesses that have been permitted to occur in the past.

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In the first place we must point out the inadequate preliminary technical evaluation of the machine and equipment capacity as related to the distribution of workers at different sites and the increase of coal production. This is the case with the "Maritsa" coal pit at Dimitrovgrad. Nor have the necessary measures been taken beforehand to eliminate the existing organizational and technical defects, namely, inadequate ventilation, deficient supply of supporting timbers at the broad drifts, inadequate lighting, damaged rail track, defective machinery, etc.

Every mine manager must understand that the principal task at this moment is to introduce the 24-hour cycle method on the basis of a preliminary scientific and technical compilation of complex timetables and the enforcement of a number of organizational and technical measures. It would be erroneous to surmise that this method of work is some sort of a temporary measure or a campaign.

The changing of the work method to the cyclical timetable system is the basis for the high labor productivity of the miners. It will bring about a decisive change in the Bulgarian black coal industry.

For the realization of this important task, which is naturally accompanied by many difficulties, the Bulgarian miners and managers must mobilize their energy in a bolshevik manner and emerge with honor as victors in the fight for mastering the new method -- the 24-hour cycle.

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